

DCAS Announces Major Expansion of Automotive Internship Program

By Keith T. Kerman



On November 13, DCAS Commissioner Molina [announced](#) a major expansion of the automotive fleet internship program for high school students. Initially expanded to include a spring cohort in 2023, the program now offers city high school students the opportunity for hands-on automotive training all year round, bridging a vital gap in automotive education.

The internship is also a critical component of a direct pipeline from automotive high schools to City employment: the City has a civil service exam for entry-level automotive repair titles that have a two-year experience requirement that can be

satisfied with a degree from one of the City's automotive high schools, which allows for a direct pathway to civil service. The next civil service exam period for the automotive service worker [opens](#) on January 8, 2025.

Last month, DCAS welcomed the latest cohort to the automotive internship, with 14 students from across the city participating in our first fall class. Since 2015, DCAS has managed the fleet internship at fleet repair garages, and to date, nearly 500 New York City youth have participated in the program. Through the DCAS automotive internship, students gain invaluable skills and paid internship experience by performing maintenance and repairs on city vehicles from NYPD, DSNY, FDNY, DOT, and NYC Parks in garages.

On December 4, DCAS, FDNY, and NYC Public Schools hosted a recognition event for the class of fall interns at the FDNY's Engine and Ladder Shop at 34th Street in Queens. FDNY's entire team of mechanics and supervisor of mechanics at the shop greeted the students and provided a tour of one of NYC's most unique and important fleet repair operations.



The automotive internships are just one of many ways that DCAS supports automotive education. DCAS donates 21 vehicles to NYC automotive schools for use in automotive repair and driver education. Most of these are all-electric vehicles. NYPD, DSNY, and others also donate engines for repair education. DCAS and MTA chair the NYC Automotive Commission which seeks to expand public and private sector support for the automotive schools. DCAS and NYC Public Schools created an animated video to explain the benefits of electric cars, called [Batteries Included](#); and DOT, DCAS and NYC Public Schools

partner together to educate elementary school children about truck safety as part of a Vision Zero Truck Experience initiative.

Thanks to Deputy Chief Fleet Officer Tamika Johnson for organizing the recognition event; to Reina Utsunomiya of NYC Public Schools and Erkin Khazratkulov who presented at the event; to Jeremy Brooks, Evan Suchecki, Tim Ramos, and the whole fleet team at FDNY for being terrific hosts; and to Tim Murphy who represented NYC Parks.



High blood pressure (hypertension) affects over 48% of American adults, but only 1 in 4 of them have it under control. High blood pressure can lead to

heart disease, stroke, kidney failure and other serious health problems. Take action by registering for WorkWell NYC's **8-week hypertension prevention and management program**, Let's Bring the Pressure Down.

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I hope all of you had a great Thanksgiving weekend, and thank you again to everyone who was out there working hard. The parade went off without a hitch — [even if Bluey needed an emergency patch](#) — thanks to the NYPD, FDNY, Emergency Management, DSNY, DOT, Citywide Events, and so many other agencies that helped pull it off. This was just the start of the festivities in our city, and we're going to have a great holiday season thanks to the hard work your teams put in every day.

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[NYC Fleet Newsletter 477, November 15, 2024:](#) [DCAS Recognizes Fleet Veterans from DSNY, DEP, and DCAS](#)

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 476, November 8, 2024:](#) DCAS Recognizes Fleet's Safest Drivers at 9th Annual Safety Forum

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